Lessons for Life with Mary and Mike

NOTE FOR PARENTS

This book chronicles the Abrams family. The parents are a Messianic Jewish couple. Mary and Mike are six years old twins. This series portrays how the parents capture teachable moments to shape their young family.

These stories do not have to be read in a particular order. You may want to select stories based on your own children's needs day by day. Be aware of opportunities to personalize the lessons based on what is happening in their lives. The topics in the table of contents on the next page are hyperlinked to the relevant sections.

If you have friends who speak other languages and might enjoy this book for their own families to use, it has been translated into over a hundred languages. You can find the translations at obeygc2.com.

Consider establishing a pattern of reading one of the accounts each day. You could do this at bedtime or dinner, for example.

May the Lord grant you wisdom and joy as you disciple your children day by day.

Blessings!

Curtis Sergeant

April 2025

About the author

Curtis Sergeant is a father and grandfather who has loved reading and telling stories to his children and grandchildren. If you want more free ebooks for children, go to obeygc2.com/resources and scroll down to the children's resources link. This resource and other titles are available in 132 languages besides English. To access books in those languages, go to obeygc2.com/languages.

Links

The Only One is a book for adults by Curtis Sergeant. The ebook is available for free in several languages. The professionally translated versions are at TheOnlyOneBook.com, and the AI-translated versions are at obeyGC2.com, along with many other resources.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Shema

THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD

2. God is the Creator
3. God is Holy
4. God is Eternal
5. God is All-Knowing
6. God is All-Present
7. God is All-Powerful
8. God is Three in One
9. God is Just and Merciful
10. The Fruit of the Spirit is God's Character

CHARACTER TRAITS GOD DESIRES IN US

11. Love
12. Joy
13. Peace
14. Patience
15. Kindness
16. Goodness
17. Faithfulness
18. Gentleness
19. Self-Control
20. Humility
21. Perseverance
22. Serving the Least, the Last, and the Lost
23. Being Like Dogs rather than Cats

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

24. The Beatitudes (Blessings)
25. Salt, Light, and God's Law
26. Giving, Prayer, and Trusting God
27. Treasures and Trusting in God
28. Judging Others and Asking God
29. The Narrow Gate and Bearing Good Fruit

KNOWING AND SERVING GOD

30. Scripture
31. Prayer
32. Following Jesus
33. The Great Commission

JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

34. The Meaning of Rosh Hashanah
35. The Meaning of Yom Kippur
36. The Meaning of Sukkot
37. The True Meaning of Christmas
38. The Meaning of Purim
39. The Meaning of Easter and Passover
40. The Meaning of Shavuot

BUILDING RESILIENCY

41. Trusting God's Plan
42. Why God Allows Suffering

The Shema

One evening, as the family gathered for their devotion, Mary looked up thoughtfully. "What does the Shema mean?" she asked.

Dad smiled and opened his Bible. "The Shema is a special prayer from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. It says, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ Shema means ‘listen’ in Hebrew. It’s not just about hearing words but truly taking them to heart."

Mom added, "God wants us to love Him with everything we have—our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions."

"So, it’s not just a prayer—it’s how we live?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "It reminds us that God is the center of our lives."

"That reminds me of the story of Joshua," Mom said. "When he led the Israelites into the Promised Land, he told them, ‘Choose this day whom you will serve… but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’ Joshua knew the importance of putting God first, just like the Shema teaches."

As the family continued their discussion, Mary thought about what it meant to love God with all her heart. "How do we show that we love God?" she asked.

"Loving God isn't just about saying it," Dad explained. "It means putting Him first in every choice we make. When we obey Him, pray to Him, and trust Him, we show our love."

"It's also about loving others," Mom added. "When we treat people with kindness and patience, we're reflecting our love for God."

"That reminds me of Ruth," Dad said. "She showed her love for God by staying with Naomi, even when things were hard. She could have left, but she chose to follow God's way."

Mike grinned. "So if I help my friend when he drops his books, is that showing love for God?"

"That's right!" Dad said. "Every little act of love reflects our love for Him."

Later that evening, Mom pointed to the mezuzah on their doorframe. "The Shema says to write God's words on our hearts and teach them to our children. That's why we talk about God's Word every day."

"That's also why we have reminders like this mezuzah," Dad added. "It helps us remember God's commands as we come and go."

"That makes me think of King Josiah," Mom said. "When they found the lost scroll of God's law in the temple, Josiah read it to the people and told them to follow it again. He understood how important it was to live by God's Word."

"So it's not just about knowing the words—it's about living them?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Mom said. "When we love God fully, His Word shapes our actions."

Mike nodded. "That means we don't just pray and read the Bible—we live what we learn."

"That's what following God is all about," Dad said.

God is the Creator

One afternoon, Mary and Mike were playing in the yard when Mary looked up at the sky. "Who made all of this?" she wondered aloud.

Dad smiled. "The Bible says, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.' Everything we see—trees, animals, the sun, the ocean—was made by Him."

"Even the tiniest bugs?" Mike asked.

"Yes! God's creation is full of details, from the stars to the smallest creatures," Mom said. "And He made it all good."

"That reminds me of Job," Dad said. "When Job had questions, God reminded him to look at creation. God asked Job if he could command the morning or tell the ocean where to stop. Seeing God's power in creation helps us trust Him."

"That means we should take care of what He made," Mary added thoughtfully.

That evening, during Bible time, Dad read from Genesis. "God made people special—different from the animals. He created us in His image."

"What does that mean?" Mike asked.

"It means we reflect parts of who God is," Mom explained. "We can think, create, love, and make choices. God made us to be in relationship with Him."

"That reminds me of King David," Dad said. "Even when he was just a shepherd, God saw his heart. Being made in God's image means He knows us and has plans for us."

"So we're not just another part of creation—we're made for something more?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "He made us to know Him and to share His love."

The next day, while cleaning up the yard, Mary noticed some litter. "Since God made the world, we should take care of it, right?"

"That's right," Mom said. "God gave people the responsibility to be caretakers of His creation."

"That reminds me of Joseph in Egypt," Dad said. "He planned wisely to take care of people and the land during the famine. We can be good caretakers too."

"I'll help pick up trash at the park tomorrow," Mike said eagerly.

"That's a great way to honor God's work," Dad said with a smile.

God is Holy

One evening at dinner, Mary looked up thoughtfully. "What does it mean that God is holy?" she asked.
Dad smiled. "Holy means God is perfect, pure, and set apart from everything else."
"It means there is no one like Him," Mom added. "God is different from us because He has never sinned, and everything He does is right."
"That reminds me of Moses and the burning bush," Dad said. "When God spoke to Moses, He told him to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. Being near God’s holiness is something special."
"Wow," Mike said. "So being holy means being completely good and perfect?"
"Exactly," Dad said. "And because God is holy, we can trust Him completely."

After dinner, the family moved to the living room for Bible study. "Since God is pure and perfect, He always does what is right," Dad explained.

"That's why we can trust Him," Mom added. "He never lies, never makes mistakes, and never does anything unfair."

"That reminds me of Isaiah's vision of God," Dad said. "Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne, high and exalted, with angels calling out, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.' Isaiah felt unworthy in God's presence, but God made him clean."

"I'm glad God is perfect," Mary said with a smile. "That means He will always do what is best for us."

"That's right," Dad said. "And His holiness is something we should worship and respect."

Later that night, Mike was still thinking about what it meant that God was set apart. "What does it mean that God is different from us?" he asked.

"It means God is greater than anything we can imagine," Dad said. "His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts."

"But He still loves us and wants to be close to us," Mom added. "Even though He is holy, He made a way for us to know Him. He also makes us able to become holy. He told us to be holy as He is holy."

"That reminds me of when Jesus came to earth," Dad said. "Even though Jesus is God, He lived among people, showing us God's love and holiness."

"So even though God is holy and different, He still wants a relationship with us?" Mary asked.

"That's exactly right," Mom said. "And that's why we should worship and honor Him."

God is Eternal

One evening, the family lay on a blanket outside, staring up at the twinkling stars. "What does it mean that God is eternal?" Mary asked.

"Eternal means God has no beginning and no end," Dad said. "He has always been here and always will be."

"That's hard to imagine!" Mike said, staring up at the endless sky.

"Think about how God told Moses His name is 'I AM,'" Mom said. "That means He exists forever—past, present, and future."

"So God was there before time began?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "And He will always be with us."

The next day, Mike sat on the porch, watching the clock tick.

"What does it mean that God is outside of time?" he asked.

"It means time doesn't limit God," Dad explained. "He created time, but He is not bound by it."

"That reminds me of Psalm 90:4," Mom said. "It says that to God, a thousand years is like a single day."

"That's amazing!" Mary said, looking at her watch. "It's like God is holding time in His hands."

"That's why we can trust His plans," Dad added. "He sees the whole picture when we only see a small part."

That evening, during devotion, Mom opened the Bible to Revelation. "The Bible says God is the Alpha and the Omega. That means He is the beginning and the end."

"That means God was there before anything else," Dad added. "And He will be there at the end of time too."

"That reminds me of the story of creation," Mary said. "God was there in the beginning when He made the world."

"And He will be there when He creates the new heaven and new earth," Mom said. "God's eternity gives us hope because we know He is always in control."

"I love knowing God will always be with us," Mike said.

God is All-Knowing

One evening, as the family sat together in the living room, Mike asked, "What does it mean that God is all-knowing?"
"It means that God knows everything—past, present, and future," Dad said, flipping through his Bible. "Nothing surprises Him."
"And He even knows what's in our hearts," Mom added. "He understands us completely."
"That makes me feel safe," Mary said. "Even when I don't know what to say, God already understands."
"That's why we can trust Him in every situation," Dad said. "Because He knows what's best for us."

"God isn’t just all-knowing; He’s also perfectly wise," Dad said during their morning devotion.

"His wisdom means He always knows the best thing to do," Mom added. "That’s why we should trust Him, even when we don’t understand."

"Like when Joseph was in prison?" Mary asked. "He didn’t know how things would turn out, but God had a plan."

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Even when things seem uncertain, God is always in control."

"That means we don’t have to worry about the future!" Mike said.

Later that night, the family stepped outside to admire the starry sky.

"God knows all the stars by name," Dad said, looking up.

"That's in Psalm 147:4," Mary said proudly.

"If He knows every star, He surely knows and cares about us too," Mom said. "We are even more precious to Him."

"That makes me feel special," Mike said. "God sees me and knows everything about me."

"That's why we can always trust Him," Dad said. "Because His knowledge and love never fail."

God is All-Present

One evening, as Mary and Mike sat in the living room, Mary asked, "What does it mean that God is all-present?"

"It means God is everywhere at the same time," Dad said.

"No matter where we are, He is always with us," Mom added.

"Psalm 139 tells us there's nowhere we can go where God isn't with us."

"That reminds me of Jonah," Mike said. "Even when he ran away, God was still there."

"Exactly," Dad said. "God never leaves us alone."

The next day, as the family walked to the park, Mike asked,

"Is God with us even here?"

"Yes!" Mom said. "He's with you wherever you go."

"Even at school?" Mary asked.

"Yes," Dad said. "Whether we are at home, at school, or anywhere in the world, God is near."

"That reminds me of Daniel in the lions' den," Mom said. "Even there, God stayed with him."

"I like knowing God is always with us," Mike said with a smile.

That evening, a storm rumbled outside.

"Sometimes, when things are scary, it's hard to remember that God is with us," Mary said.

"But He is always near," Dad said. "Even in the storm, He is there."

"Like when Jesus calmed the storm for the disciples?" Mike asked.

"Exactly!" Mom said. "They were afraid, but Jesus was with them the whole time."

"That makes me feel safe," Mary said, listening to the rain.

God is All-Powerful

One evening, as the family sat down for dinner, Mary asked, "What does it mean that God is all-powerful?"

"It means God can do anything," Dad said. "There's nothing too hard for Him."

"And He uses His power for good," Mom added with a smile. "He takes care of us and the whole world."

"That reminds me of when God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites," Dad said. "Even though it seemed impossible, God made a way for them."

"So God's power isn't just big—it helps His people!" Mike said.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "And we can trust Him to take care of us."

Later that night, the family gathered for devotion.

"God's power is seen in creation," Mom said. "The Bible says, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'"

"That means He spoke the universe into being!" Dad added.

"And He still holds everything together."

"That reminds me of Job," Mary said. "When he had questions, God told him to look at creation to understand His power."

"That's right!" Mom said. "When we remember how powerful God is, we can trust Him with everything in our lives."

The next day, the family visited the ocean.

"The waves show how powerful God is," Dad said, watching the water crash against the shore.

"And the mountains remind us of His strength," Mary added.

"That reminds me of Jesus calming the storm," Mom said. "The disciples were afraid, but Jesus told the waves to be still, and they obeyed Him."

"That means when things feel out of control, we can remember that God is still in charge?" Mike asked.

"That's exactly right," Dad said. "And we can always trust His strength."

God is Three in One

During their evening devotion, Mary looked up thoughtfully. "What does it mean that God is three in one?"

Dad smiled. "It means that God is one God, but He exists as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

"That sounds amazing!" Mike said. "How can He be three and one at the same time?"

"It's a mystery, but it shows us how great God is," Mom said.

"Think about water. It can be liquid, ice, or steam, but it's still water. In a much greater way, God is one but exists as three persons."

"That reminds me of Jesus' baptism," Dad said. "When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven. All three were present!"

"That's so cool!" Mary said. "God is truly beyond what we can fully understand."

"God the Father is our Creator," Mom said as they continued their discussion.

"He made everything and loves us as His children," Dad added. "That's why we call Him our Heavenly Father."

"That reminds me of when Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer," Mary said. "He told us to pray, 'Our Father in heaven.'"

"Exactly," Dad said. "The Bible shows us how God the Father has cared for His people since the very beginning."

"And God the Son is Jesus," Mom added. "He came to save us and show us how to live."

"That's why Jesus said, 'Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father,'" Dad explained. "Jesus is fully God and fully human."

"That reminds me of when Jesus walked on water," Mike said. "Only God could do something like that!"

"Yes," Dad said. "And He healed the sick, calmed storms, and even forgave sins—things only God can do."

"And the Holy Spirit helps us follow God," Mom said. "He guides us, teaches us, and gives us strength."

"I like knowing the Holy Spirit is with me," Mary said softly.

"Even though God is three persons, He is still one God," Dad said.

"It's a mystery, but it shows us how great God is," Mom added. "The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together in perfect love."

"That means we should love one another, too!" Mary said excitedly.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Jesus prayed that we would be united in love just like He is with the Father and the Spirit."

"When we love God and others, we reflect the Trinity's love," Mom said. "That's why Jesus said to love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves."

"I'll try to love like Jesus," Mike said with a grin.

God is Just and Merciful

During their evening devotion, Mary asked, "What does it mean that God is just?"

Dad smiled. "It means that God always does what is right. His justice is perfect and fair."

"Justice means treating everyone fairly," Mom added. "God sees everything and makes sure that righteousness prevails."

"That reminds me of the story of King Solomon," Dad said. "When two women came to him claiming to be the mother of the same baby, Solomon used wisdom from God to judge fairly and bring out the truth."

"So God always does what's right, even when people don't?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Mom said. "And because He is just, we can trust Him to make things right."

"What about mercy?" Mike asked.

"Mercy means showing kindness and forgiveness, even when it's not deserved," Mom explained. "God is both just and merciful."

"Like when God forgives us?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "That's why Jesus came—to take the punishment for our sins so that we could receive God's mercy."

"That reminds me of the parable of the prodigal son," Mom said. "The son made bad choices, but when he returned home, his father ran to him and welcomed him back with love and forgiveness."

"So even when we make mistakes, God is ready to forgive us?" Mike asked.

"That's right," Dad said. "Because of His mercy, we can always turn back to Him."

"God calls us to love both justice and mercy," Dad said.

"Micah 6:8 says, ‘What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,’"

Mom added.

"That means we should stand up for what’s right but also forgive others?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "Justice and mercy work together."

"I want to show God’s justice by treating people fairly and His mercy by being kind and forgiving," Mike said.

The Fruit of the Spirit is God's Character

One morning at breakfast, Mary noticed a bowl of colorful fruit on the table. "What does the fruit of the Spirit mean?" she asked.

"The fruit of the Spirit describes the qualities that God helps us grow in our lives," Dad said, flipping open his Bible to Galatians 5:22-23.

"And they also show us what God is like," Mom added. "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control all come from Him."

"So when we grow in the fruit of the Spirit, we are becoming more like God?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "And the more we walk with Him, the more His Spirit helps us show these qualities to others."

"The Bible says that God is love," Dad said during their devotion.

"That's why He sent Jesus to save us," Mom added. "His love is bigger than anything we can imagine."

"That reminds me of the story of the Good Samaritan," Mary said. "The man didn't just help his friend—he helped a stranger!"

"Yes!" Dad said. "That's the kind of love God has. It's not just for those who love us back—it's for everyone."

"And joy comes from knowing God, no matter what happens," Mom continued. "Even Paul and Silas sang praises to God while they were in prison!"

"So peace, patience, and kindness are also part of who God is?" Mike asked.

"Yes!" Dad said. "And when we live with these qualities, we reflect God's character."

"When we live by the Spirit, we grow more like God," Mom said.

"That means showing patience when things don't go our way," Dad added.

"Like waiting for my turn instead of getting upset?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Mom said. "And goodness and faithfulness mean being honest and keeping our promises."

"Jesus showed gentleness and self-control, too," Dad said.

"Even when He was treated unfairly, He didn't fight back."

"I want to show the fruit of the Spirit every day!" Mike said with a big smile.

Love

One evening, as the Abrams family sat down for dinner, Mary asked, "What does it mean to love someone?"

Dad smiled. "Love is more than just a feeling," he said. "It's about showing kindness, patience, and care for others."

"That reminds me of 1 Corinthians 13," Mom said, passing the bread. "The Bible says, 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.'"

"So love isn't just about saying 'I love you'?" Mike asked.

"That's right," Dad said. "Love is about our actions—how we treat others every day."

"The best example of love is God’s love for us," Mom said, pouring juice into their cups.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son," Dad added. "That’s in John 3:16."

"That reminds me of the story of the lost sheep," Mary said. "The shepherd left ninety-nine sheep to find the one that was lost. That’s how much God loves us!"

"Exactly," Dad said. "God’s love never gives up. He seeks us, forgives us, and welcomes us back."

"I’m so glad God’s love never ends," Mary said with a smile.

"What does it mean to love others?" Mike asked.

"It means being kind, patient, and putting others first," Mom said. "Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God, and the second is to love our neighbor."

"That means sharing, helping, and forgiving!" Mary said.

"Yes!" Dad said. "Love isn't always easy, but it's always the right choice."

"I want to love like Jesus," Mike said with a big smile.

Joy

One morning as the Abrams family enjoyed breakfast together, Mike looked up from his plate. "What is joy?" he asked.

"Joy is more than just being happy," Mom said, pouring juice into their cups. "It's a deep gladness that comes from knowing God loves us."

"That's why Paul told people to 'Rejoice in the Lord always,'" Dad added. "Even when things aren't perfect, we can have joy because God is with us."

"That reminds me of when Paul and Silas were in prison," Mary said. "They sang songs and praised God even when they were in chains!"

"Exactly!" Mom said. "Joy isn't just about our circumstances—it comes from trusting God."

Later that day, the family went on a nature walk. "I feel so happy when I see all these flowers," Mary said, picking a bright yellow one.

"That's part of joy," Dad said. "When we see God's creation, it reminds us how good He is."

"It's like when David wrote the Psalms," Mom added. "He looked at the mountains, rivers, and stars and praised God for His wonderful works."

"God's world is full of beauty!" Mike said. "That's why it makes us feel joyful."

"And when we focus on God's goodness, we find joy no matter where we are," Dad said.

That evening, the family gathered around the piano. "We can find joy when we sing and worship God," Dad said.
Mom played a joyful tune, and Mary and Mike sang along.
"This makes me feel so glad inside!" Mary said, smiling brightly.
"That's because worship connects us to God," Mom said. "In the Bible, King David danced with joy when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. He couldn't help but celebrate God's goodness!"
"So when we worship, it helps our hearts feel joy?" Mike asked.
"Yes," Dad said. "Because when we focus on God, we remember all the reasons we have to rejoice."
"And we can share joy by helping others too!" Mom said.
"Jesus told us that it's more blessed to give than to receive."
"That means bringing joy to others brings joy to us too!" Mary said happily.

Peace

One evening, Mary and Mike sat on the porch watching the sunset.

"What does peace mean?" Mary asked, gazing at the golden sky.

Dad joined them and said, "Peace is a calmness in our hearts that comes from trusting God."

"That reminds me of when Jesus calmed the storm," Mike said. "The disciples were scared, but Jesus told the wind and waves to be still."

"Exactly," Dad said. "True peace isn't just about quiet places—it's about knowing God is in control."

"The Bible says that God gives us peace," Mom said, joining them with mugs of hot cocoa.

Dad recited from Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You."

"That reminds me of Daniel in the lion's den," Mary said.

"Even when he was surrounded by lions, he wasn't afraid because he trusted God."

"Yes!" Mom said. "God's peace is greater than our fears."

"I like knowing that God's peace is always with us," Mike said, sipping his cocoa.

"God wants us to share His peace with others," Dad said.

"That means being kind and helping people feel safe and loved," Mom added.

"Like inviting someone new to play with us?" Mike asked.

"Yes!" Mom said. "Jesus said, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’

When we help others feel at peace, we reflect God’s heart."

"I’ll try to be a peacemaker every day!" Mary said happily.

Patience

One morning, while waiting for breakfast, Mike sighed.
"What does patience mean?" he asked.
"Patience means waiting calmly without complaining," Dad said, flipping pancakes.
"It’s trusting that good things take time," Mom added with a smile. "God teaches us patience so we can grow."
"That reminds me of Noah," Dad said. "He waited many years for the flood to come, trusting God’s timing even when others doubted."
"So patience means trusting God’s plan, even when it takes a long time?" Mary asked.
"Exactly!" Dad said. "And when we wait with a good attitude, we show our trust in Him."

Later that day, the family planted seeds in the garden.

"Why can't the flowers grow right away?" Mary asked, pressing a seed into the soil.

"Plants need time to grow," Mom explained. "Patience helps us enjoy the process."

"That reminds me of when James talks about the farmer being patient for the early and late rains," Dad said. "He said that we should be patient like that as well."

"I guess waiting for flowers is kind of like waiting for God's blessings," Mike said. "They come when the time is right."

"Yes," Mom said. "And God's timing is always perfect."

That evening, Mary and Mike sat at the table playing a board game.

"Patience also means being kind while we wait," Mom said. "Like letting others have their turn without rushing them."

"That reminds me of Joseph in the Bible," Dad said. "He waited years in Egypt before he became a ruler, but he trusted God's timing and forgave his brothers."

"So patience isn't just about waiting—it's about how we act while we wait?" Mike asked.

"That's right!" Mom said. "Patience helps us stay kind and trust God."

"I'll try to be patient when I'm waiting for my turn," Mary said with a smile.

Kindness

One morning during breakfast, Mary asked, "What does it mean to be kind?"

"Kindness means thinking about others and doing things to help them," Mom said as she poured juice.

"It's like showing love in action," Dad added. "Kindness isn't just words—it's about what we do."

"That reminds me of the Good Samaritan," Mike said. "He stopped to help a hurt man when others walked by."

"Exactly," Mom said. "Jesus taught that kindness is caring for others, even when it's not easy."

"The Bible says God shows us kindness every day," Dad said during their morning devotion.

"His kindness is why we have so many blessings," Mom added. "He gives us love, family, and everything we need."

"That reminds me of when Jesus fed the 5,000," Mary said. "The people were hungry, and He gave them food."

"Yes!" Dad said. "God's kindness isn't just about big miracles. It's in the little things, too—like the sunshine and the food we enjoy."

"I'm thankful for God's kindness," Mary said with a smile.

"What are ways we can show kindness?" Mike asked.

"Kindness starts with small things—like sharing, using kind words, and helping others," Mom said.

"That means saying kind words even when I’m upset?" Mary asked.

"Yes!" Dad said. "The Bible says, ‘Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.’"

"I want to live with kindness every day!" Mike said with a big smile.

Goodness

One evening during family dinner, Mary asked, "What does it mean to be good?"

"Goodness means doing what is right, even when no one is watching," Dad said.

"It's about following God's ways and making choices that please Him," Mom added. "True goodness comes from the heart."

"That reminds me of Daniel in the Bible," Dad said. "Even though he was an important leader, he was known as one of the most humble men. He always relied on God."

"So being good means choosing the right thing, even when it's hard?" Mike asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Goodness means standing for what's right."

"God shows us His goodness every day," Dad said during their devotion.

"He provides for us and cares for us," Mom added.

"Everything we have is because of His goodness."

"That reminds me of Psalm 23," Mary said. "It says, ‘Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.’"

"Yes!" Dad said. "And God’s goodness never runs out."

"I see God’s goodness when I look at the stars," Mary said, pointing out the window. "He made so many beautiful things for us."

"How do we choose goodness?" Mike asked.

"We follow what God teaches us in the Bible," Dad said. "When we live by His Word, we reflect His goodness."

"And we ask God to help us make the right choices," Mom added. "Goodness isn't always easy, but God helps us."

"That reminds me of Joseph," Dad said. "Even when his brothers treated him badly, he still chose to do what was right. He forgave them and helped them when they needed him."

"So being good means forgiving and doing what's right, even when others don't?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Mom said. "Because goodness comes from God's love inside us."

Faithfulness

One morning as the family sat down for breakfast, Mary asked, "What does it mean to be faithful?"

"Faithfulness means being loyal, trustworthy, and always keeping your promises," Dad said.

"It's about being dependable," Mom added with a smile.

"When we say we will do something, we follow through."

"That reminds me of Noah," Dad said. "Even though it took years to build the ark, he stayed faithful to what God told him to do."

"So being faithful means doing the right thing, even when it's not easy?" Mike asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Faithfulness means staying committed."

"The Bible says that God is always faithful," Dad said during their morning devotion.
"That means we can trust Him to keep His promises," Mom added. "He never forgets or changes His word."
"Like how God promised never to flood the earth again?" Mike asked.
"Yes!" Dad said. "And He put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His faithfulness."
"That reminds me of Abraham," Mary said. "God promised him a big family, and even though it took a long time, God kept His promise."
"God is always faithful," Mom said. "And we can trust Him completely."

"Faithfulness starts with small things," Mom said as Mary and Mike cleaned up their toys.

"When you take care of what you're responsible for, you show you can be trusted with more," Dad said.

"That reminds me of the parable of the talents," Mom added. "Jesus told a story about servants who were given money to take care of. The ones who used it wisely were rewarded, but the one who did nothing lost what he had."

"So even little things, like doing chores or finishing homework, show we can be trusted?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Faithfulness isn't just about big things—it's about being dependable every day."

Gentleness

One afternoon, as Mary stroked the family's cat, she asked, "What does gentleness mean?"

"Gentleness means being kind and careful with our words and actions," Mom said.

"It's about showing love without being harsh," Dad added.

"When we are gentle, we treat others with care, just as God treats us."

"That reminds me of how Jesus welcomed children," Mary said. "He was always kind and patient."

"Exactly!" Mom said. "Gentleness is a strength that comes from love."

"The Bible says that God is gentle with us," Dad said during their evening devotion.

"He takes care of us like a shepherd cares for his sheep," Mom added. "He leads us gently, not forcing us."

"That reminds me of Psalm 23," Mike said. "'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.'"

"Yes," Dad said. "And Jesus is called the Good Shepherd because He lovingly guides us and protects us."

"I like knowing God is gentle with us," Mary said softly. "It makes me feel safe."

"Gentleness means using kind words," Mom said.

"Like saying ‘please’ and ‘thank you’?" Mike asked.

"And speaking calmly, even when we’re upset," Mom added.

"The Bible says a gentle answer turns away anger."

"That reminds me of how Jesus spoke to people," Dad said. "He corrected them with love and patience, never with harshness."

"I want to use gentle words like Jesus," Mary said thoughtfully.

"And it’s not just words," Dad said. "Gentleness is how we treat people—with kindness, care, and patience."

Self-Control

One morning during breakfast, Mike asked, "What does self-control mean?"

"Self-control means choosing to do what's right, even when it's hard," Dad said as he poured juice into their cups.

"It helps us make good choices," Mom added. "When we practice self-control, we think before we act."

"That reminds me of when Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness," Dad said. "Even when He was hungry, He resisted temptation and trusted God's Word."

"So self-control helps us stay strong and make good choices?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "It helps us follow God's way."

Later that morning, Mary asked, "Why do we need self-control with our words?"

"Words can hurt or heal," Mom said. "Self-control helps us think before we speak."

"That reminds me of Proverbs 15:1," Dad said. "'A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.'"

"So when we control our words, we help others feel happy instead of hurt?" Mike asked.

"Exactly!" Mom said. "Speaking with kindness is part of self-control."

"And it's also about our actions," Dad said. "Self-control means making wise choices, even when it's difficult."

"Like when I really want to eat cookies before dinner, but I wait instead?" Mike asked.

"Yes! Waiting patiently and making the right choice is self-control at work."

That evening, the family gathered for their Bible study.

"The Bible teaches us about self-control," Dad said. "It says, ‘Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty.’"

"That means being strong isn’t just about muscles—it’s about controlling our emotions too!" Mary said.

"Exactly," Mom said. "Jesus showed self-control when He was treated unfairly. Instead of getting angry, He remained calm and trusted God."

"I want to be like Jesus and make good choices every day!" Mike said excitedly.

Humility

One evening, as the family sat down for dinner, Mary asked, "What does it mean to be humble?"

"Humility means thinking of others before yourself," Dad explained.

"And remembering that everything we have comes from God," Mom added. "Being humble means recognizing that we need God's help."

"That reminds me of Moses," Dad said. "Even though he led God's people, he was known as one of the most humble men. He always relied on God."

"So being humble means trusting God instead of thinking we can do everything by ourselves?" Mike asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "It helps us serve others with love."

"The best example of humility is Jesus," Dad said during their devotion.

"He came to serve, not to be served," Mom added. "Even though He was God, He humbled Himself and washed His disciples' feet."

"That reminds me of when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey," Mary said. "He didn't come as a king on a big horse, but in a humble way."

"That's right!" Dad said. "Jesus showed us that true greatness comes from serving others."

"I want to be like Jesus," Mike said thoughtfully.

"Being humble means putting others first," Mom said as she helped clear the table.

"Like letting someone else go first in a game?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said with a smile. "Philippians 2:3 says, 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.'"

"That reminds me of how David waited for God's timing instead of taking the throne from Saul," Mike said. "He put God's plan first."

"That's a great example of humility!" Mom said. "It shows trust in God's timing."

"I'll try to be humble every day!" Mary said excitedly.

Perseverance

During their family devotion, Mike asked, "What does it mean to persevere?"

"Perseverance means not giving up, even when something is hard," Dad explained.

"It's about staying strong and trusting God," Mom added.

"Even when challenges come, we keep going."

"That reminds me of Nehemiah rebuilding the wall," Dad said. "People tried to stop him, but he didn't quit because he knew he was doing God's work."

"I want to keep going like Nehemiah," Mary said thoughtfully.

"The Bible is full of stories about people who persevered," Dad said.

"Like Noah building the ark, even when others laughed at him," Mom added. "He trusted God's plan and kept working."

"That reminds me of the story of Joseph," Mary said. "Even when he was in prison, he didn't give up. He trusted God's timing."

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Perseverance means trusting God even when things are hard."

"I want to be like Noah and Joseph," Mary said thoughtfully.

"Sometimes perseverance is hard, but God gives us strength," Mom said.

"When we pray, He helps us keep going," Dad added. "Like how David kept trusting God while waiting to be king."

"That reminds me of Paul," Mike said. "Even when he was in prison, he kept preaching about Jesus."

"That's a great example!" Mom said. "God gives us what we need to keep going."

"I'll ask God to help me when things are tough," Mike said.

Serving the Least, the Last, and the Lost

One evening during devotion, Mary asked, "Why does God care so much about helping people?"

"Because God loves everyone, especially those who need help," Dad said.

"And He calls us to care for them too," Mom added. "When we serve others, we show God’s love in action."

"That reminds me of the story of the Good Samaritan," Dad said. "He stopped to help someone in need when others ignored him. Jesus said we should love our neighbors the same way."

"I want to help others like that," Mary said thoughtfully.

"Who are the least among us?" Mike asked.

"The least are those who don't have much," Mom explained.

"People who are hungry, sick, or lonely need extra care."

"Jesus spent time with those whom others ignored," Dad said. "He healed the sick, welcomed outcasts, and cared for the poor."

"That reminds me of the lost sheep," Mary said. "Jesus said He would leave the ninety-nine to find the one that was lost."

"Exactly!" Mom said. "God wants everyone to know His love, especially those who feel forgotten."

"Jesus showed us how to care for the least, the last, and the lost," Mom said.

"He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and welcomed everyone," Dad added. "He calls us to do the same."

"That means I can invite someone new to play at recess!" Mike said.

"Yes! And even small acts of kindness matter," Mom said.

"When we help others, it's like we are serving Jesus."

"I want to follow Jesus' example every day!" Mary said brightly.

Being Like Dogs rather than Cats

One sunny afternoon, Mary and Mike were playing with their pets when Mary asked, "Why are cats and dogs so different?"

"That's a good question," Dad said, sitting down with them.

"Dogs seem so happy to see us, but cats act like they're the ones in charge!" Mike added, laughing.

"That's because cats are more independent, while dogs love to follow and please their owners," Mom explained.

"It's interesting how they act so differently!" Mary said thoughtfully.

"Sometimes people can be like cats or dogs in their attitudes toward God," Dad said.

"What do you mean?" Mary asked.

"Well, some people only think about what God can do for them," Mom explained. "They pray when they need something but don't spend time with Him otherwise."

"That's like a cat!" Mike said. "Only coming when it wants something."

"Exactly," Dad said. "But God wants us to love Him for who He is, not just what He gives us."

"And dogs love their owners no matter what," Mary added. "They just want to be close and to please their owners."

"That's how we should be with God!" Mom said. "Loving Him because He loves us."

"Jesus showed us how to love and serve," Mom said.

"He didn't come to be served, but to serve," Dad added.

"That reminds me of when He washed His disciples' feet," Mary said. "Even though He was their teacher, He humbled Himself."

"That's exactly right," Mom said. "Jesus showed us that true love is about giving, not just receiving."

"So we should be like dogs, not cats, when it comes to God?" Mike asked.

"Yes," Dad said with a smile. "Loving God fully, following Him with joy, and serving others with a cheerful heart."

"I want to love and serve God every day!" Mary said happily.

The Beatitudes (Blessings)

One evening at dinner, Mike asked, "What are the Beatitudes?"

"The Beatitudes are blessings Jesus spoke about during the Sermon on the Mount," Dad said.

"They show us how to live in a way that pleases God," Mom added.

"So they are like special instructions for living the right way?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "They remind us that God's kingdom is different from the world."

"Jesus said, ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,’" Dad read.

"What does that mean?" Mary asked.

"It means we recognize we need God and rely on Him completely," Mom explained.

"And Jesus also said, ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted,’" Dad continued.

"That means God is close to us when we are sad, and we should care about the things that make God sad too," Mom added.

"I’m glad God comforts us," Mike said.

"Jesus also said, ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth,’" Dad read.

"Being meek means being gentle and humble," Mom explained.

"Like when we share and take turns?" Mary asked.

"That’s right," Mom said. "And Jesus also said, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’"

"So when we help others get along, we are being peacemakers?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "The Beatitudes teach us to love, forgive, and trust God in everything.”

“Jesus also said, ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,” When we are willing to suffer because we follow Jesus, that shows that He is so wonderful that He is worth suffering for.”

"I want to live the way Jesus taught!" Mary said happily.

Salt, Light, and God's Law

One morning during devotion, Mike asked, "What does it mean that we are the salt of the earth?"

"Salt makes food taste better, and it helps preserve things," Dad explained.

"Jesus wants us to bring His goodness into the world," Mom added.

"So we are like salt because we help make the world better?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "Jesus calls us to live in a way that spreads His love."

"Jesus also said we are the light of the world," Mom said.
"Light helps people see in the dark," Dad added. "It shows the way."
"I want to shine God's light!" Mary said brightly.
"Jesus said to let our light shine so others can see our good deeds and praise God," Mom added.
"That means our actions can help others know God," Dad said.

"Jesus also said He came to fulfill the Law, not to get rid of it," Dad said during their Bible reading.

"God's commands show us how to live rightly," Mom added.

"That reminds me of the Ten Commandments," Mike said.

"God gave them to help His people."

"Exactly!" Dad said. "When we follow God's ways, we show love for Him and for others."

"I want to follow His ways," Mary said thoughtfully.

Giving, Prayer, and Trusting God

One evening during their family devotion, Mike asked, "Why does Jesus say not to show off when we do good?"

"Jesus wants us to do good for God, not to impress others," Dad said.

"God sees everything we do, even when no one else does," Mom added. "What matters is that our hearts are in the right place."

"That reminds me of the widow in the Bible who gave two small coins," Dad said. "She didn't give to show off, but because she loved God."

"So when we do good, it should be between us and God?" Mary asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "That's what true kindness looks like."

"Jesus said when we give, we shouldn't make a big show of it," Dad read.

"It's better to give quietly and let God reward us," Mom said.

"I like knowing God sees when I share," Mary said with a smile.

"And Jesus also taught us how to pray," Mom said. "Prayer isn't about showing off—it's about talking to God from our hearts."

"That reminds me of the Lord's Prayer," Mike said. "Jesus gave it to us as an example!"

"Yes!" Dad said. "It teaches us to praise God, ask for what we need, and forgive others."

OUR FATHER WHO ART
IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY
NAME. THY KINGDOM COME.
THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH,
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US
THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
GIVE US OUR DEBTS,
OUR DEBTORS.
TEMPTATION,
ROM EVIL.

"Jesus said we don’t need to worry because God knows what we need," Dad said.
"That means we can trust Him every day," Mom added.
"Like when Jesus said God takes care of the birds and flowers, and He’ll take care of us too!" Mary said.
"Exactly!" Dad said. "And when we put God first, He provides for us in ways we can’t even imagine."
"I want to trust God with everything!" Mike said happily.

Treasures and Trusting in God

One morning at breakfast, Mary asked, "What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven?"

"It means focusing on things that last forever, like loving God and helping others," Dad explained.

"Earthly treasures don't last, but heavenly treasures do," Mom added.

"That reminds me of when Jesus told the rich young ruler to give to the poor and follow Him," Dad said. "Jesus wanted him to value heavenly things more than money."

"I want to store up treasures in heaven!" Mike said excitedly.

"Jesus said that earthly treasures can be destroyed or stolen," Dad read from the Bible.

"That's why it's better to value things that last," Mom said.

"Like kindness and love?" Mary asked.

"Yes!" Dad said. "That shows that we value God and His word, and other people. Those are all eternal things. Jesus also said, 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'"

"That means our hearts follow what we care about most," Mom explained.

"I want my heart to be with God," Mary said softly.

"Jesus said we don’t need to worry because God knows what we need," Dad said.

"That means we can trust Him every day," Mom added.

“That’s why Jesus taught us to pray every day for what we need. It shows Him that we trust Him and that we rely on Him.”

“Yes," Dad said. "When we put God first and live in order to please Him, He provides us with everything we need."

"I want to trust God with everything!" Mike said happily.

Judging Others and Asking God

One morning during breakfast, Mary asked, "What does it mean when Jesus says not to judge?"

"It means we shouldn't look down on others or think we're better," Dad explained.

"Only God knows what's in someone's heart," Mom added.

"Instead of judging, we should show kindness and understanding."

"That reminds me of the Pharisees," Dad said. "They thought they were better than others, but Jesus taught that God looks at the heart, not just outward actions."

"So we should focus on our own hearts instead of pointing out others' mistakes?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "God wants us to be loving, not critical."

"Jesus said to take the log out of your own eye before trying to remove the speck from someone else's," Dad read.

"That means we should look at our own mistakes before correcting others," Mom said.

"Like how I should fix my messy room before telling Mike to clean his?" Mary asked.

"That's a perfect example!" Dad said. "We all have things to work on, so we should be patient with others."

"I'll try to fix my own mistakes first," Mike said thoughtfully.

"Jesus also said to ask, seek, and knock," Mom said during their devotion.

"That means we can ask God for help, and He will answer," Dad explained.

"I like knowing I can talk to God anytime," Mike said.

"And Jesus said that God gives us good gifts, just like parents give good things to their children," Mom added.

"It honors God when we rely on Him and trust Him for what we need. He loves us and wants what is best for us. We show we recognize that when we ask Him for what we need and trust Him to provide for us at the right time."

"I want to live that way every day!" Mike said excitedly.

The Narrow Gate and Bearing Good Fruit

One evening during dinner, Mary asked, "What does it mean to enter through the narrow gate?"
"Jesus said the narrow gate leads to life," Dad explained. "It means following Him according to His way instead of our own way, even when it’s not easy."

"But it’s worth it," Mom added with a smile.

"That reminds me of the disciples," Dad said. "They followed Jesus even when others turned away."

"I want to stay on the right path!" Mike said.

"Jesus also talked about the wide gate," Dad continued.

"The wide gate is easy to enter, but it leads to trouble," Mom explained.

"Following the narrow path means trusting Jesus completely. It means listening to Him and doing what He says," Dad said.

"It might be hard sometimes, but God will help us," Mom added.

"I'll ask God to guide me," Mary said.

"Jesus said a good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit," Dad explained.

"That means our actions show what's in our hearts," Mom said.

"How do we bear good fruit?" Mike asked.

"By staying close to Jesus and following His ways," Mom said.

"When we love God and others, we show good fruit," Dad added.

"I want to follow Jesus and bear good fruit every day!" Mary said excitedly.

Scripture

One evening during their devotion, Mary asked, "What is Scripture?"

"Scripture is God's Word, written for us in the Bible," Dad explained.

"It helps us know who God is and how to follow Him," Mom added. "It helps us to continue to grow to be more like Him and please Him more fully."

"That reminds me of when Jesus used Scripture to resist temptation in the wilderness," Dad said. "He showed us how powerful God's Word is."

"I want to learn more from the Bible every day!" Mike said.

"Reading the Bible is one way we learn about God," Dad said.
"It’s like reading a letter from someone who loves us," Mom added.
"I like reading about Jesus," Mary said with a smile.
"We can also listen to God’s Word," Mom said. "Like when we hear it at church or during family devotions."
"That helps me understand it better!" Mike said.
"The Bible says God’s Word is like a lamp to our feet," Dad said. "It shows us the right path."
"I want to follow God’s light," Mary said thoughtfully.

"Why is it important to memorize Scripture?" Mike asked.

"When we memorize it, God’s Word stays in our hearts," Dad said.

"It helps us make good choices and trust God," Mom added.

"That reminds me of how Jesus taught His disciples," Dad said. "He used Scripture to guide them in truth."

"I’ll try to memorize a verse every week!" Mary said excitedly.

"And we can also share God’s Word with others," Mom said.

"It helps them learn about God’s love."

"I’ll share a verse with my friend tomorrow!" Mike said with a grin.

Prayer

One evening during their devotion, Mary asked, "What is prayer?"

"Prayer is talking to God," Dad said. "But it's also listening to Him."

"We can share our hearts with Him and listen for His guidance," Mom added.

"That reminds me of when Jesus prayed in the garden before going to the cross," Dad said. "He talked to God about His feelings and trusted Him completely."

"I want to pray like that too!" Mike said.

"Prayer isn’t just about speaking—it’s also about listening," Mom said.

"How do we listen to God?" Mike asked.

"By being quiet and paying attention to His Word or the thoughts He places on our hearts," Dad explained.

"And prayer doesn’t always have to be out loud," Mom added. "God hears even our silent prayers."

"That means I can pray anywhere!" Mary said with a smile.

"Exactly," Dad said. "Jesus often prayed alone in quiet places to listen to God."

"Prayer isn't just something we do—it's an attitude we can live in," Dad said.

"How do we do that?" Mary asked.

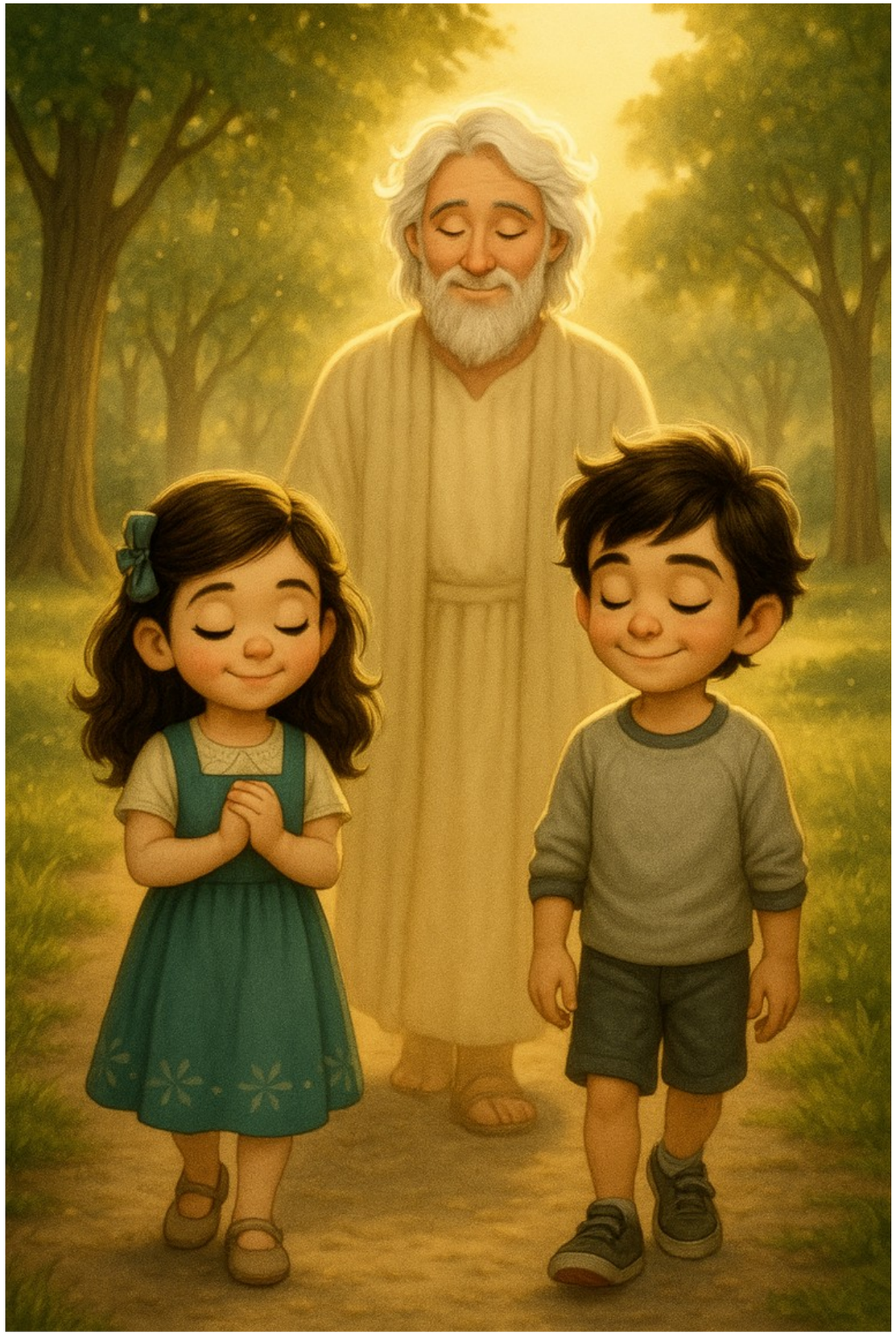
"By being aware that God is always with us," Mom explained. "We can talk to Him throughout the day."

"And the Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know what to say," Dad added.

"That means even when I'm unsure, God understands my heart!" Mike said.

"Yes!" Mom said. "And we can pray for others, thank God, and trust that He hears us."

"I want to pray every day!" Mary said excitedly.



Following Jesus

One evening during family devotion, Mary asked, "How do we start following Jesus?"

"It begins by receiving His gift of forgiveness," Dad said.

"Jesus died to take away our sins so we can be close to God," Mom added.

"That reminds me of the thief on the cross," Dad said. "He asked Jesus to remember him, and Jesus forgave him right away."

"I'm thankful Jesus forgives us," Mike said softly.

"When we receive Jesus' forgiveness, we belong to Him completely," Dad said.

"That means He is our Savior and Lord," Mom added.

"I want to live for Jesus," Mary said with a smile.

"And we show our love for Him by obeying His commands," Dad said. "The Holy Spirit lives within us and enables us to continue to trust and follow God."

"Jesus said, 'If you love me, keep my commands,'" Mom added. "That's how we follow Him every day."

"I'll try to follow Him in all I do!" Mike said excitedly.

"Jesus told His followers to go and share His teachings with others," Dad said.

"That's called making disciples," Mom explained. "We help others know and follow Jesus, too."

"That reminds me of the disciples," Mary said. "They told everyone about Jesus, even when it was hard."

"And we can share Jesus in our own way—by telling friends, showing kindness, and living like Him," Dad said.

"I'll share a Bible verse with my friend tomorrow!" Mike said with a grin.

The Great Commission

One evening during family devotion, Mary asked, "What did Jesus tell His disciples before He went back to heaven?"
"He gave them the Great Commission," Dad said. "He told them to go and make disciples of all nations."
"That means sharing His love with everyone," Mom added.
"That reminds me of when Jesus sent out the seventy-two disciples," Dad said. "He told them to share the good news wherever they went."
"I want to share His love too!" Mike said excitedly.

"What does it mean to make disciples?" Mike asked.

"It means helping others follow Jesus," Dad said.

"We share His teachings and show them how to live like Him," Mom explained.

"Jesus said we were to baptize people. That shows their decision to stop living for themselves and to live a new life of following God. Jesus also said we should teach others to obey all His commands," Mom added.

"That's how we show we love Him," Dad said. "By following His teaching and helping others do the same."

"I'll share what I learn about Jesus with my friends!" Mary said with a smile.

"Jesus said He is with us always, even to the end of the age," Dad said.

"That means we can trust Him no matter where we go," Mom added.

"That reminds me of how Paul and the early Christians traveled to different places to share about Jesus," Dad said. "Even when it was difficult and unfamiliar, they knew Jesus was with them."

"I like knowing that Jesus is with me wherever I go," Mary said softly.

"That's why we share His love with joy," Mom said. "The Great Commission isn't just a command—it's a blessing!"

"I want to follow Jesus and help others know Him too!" Mike said excitedly.

The Meaning of Rosh Hashanah

The sun was setting, painting the sky in shades of gold and pink as the Abrams family prepared for Rosh Hashanah.

"Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year," Dad said. "It's a time to reflect, celebrate, and pray for a sweet and blessed year ahead."

"That's why we prepare our home and hearts for this special time," Mom added with a warm smile.

Mary and Mike had spent the afternoon helping their mother in the kitchen. The sweet aroma of honey cake and freshly baked challah filled the house.

"Mom, why do we eat sweet foods on Rosh Hashanah?" Mary asked, her dark eyes curious.

Mom smiled as she placed the challah on a platter. "We eat sweet foods to remind us of the sweetness of a new year."

"And apples with honey?" Mike asked, holding up a shiny red apple.

"Yes, especially apples with honey," Mom said. "They symbolize a wish for a sweet and fruitful year."

Just then, Dad entered the room carrying a shofar. "And do you know what this is for?" he asked, holding up the ram's horn.

"The shofar!" Mary and Mike exclaimed in unison.

Dad nodded. "That's right. The shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah to remind us to wake up and reflect on our actions. It's a time to think about how we can be better in the year ahead."

"I want to listen carefully when it's blown!" Mike said eagerly.

The Meaning of Yom Kippur

It was a calm afternoon, and the Abrams family was preparing for Yom Kippur. Mary and Mike sat with their parents as they talked about the importance of the holiday.

"Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement," Dad explained. "It's a special day to ask God and others for forgiveness and to reflect on how we can be better."

"Why do we fast?" Mike asked.

"Fasting helps us focus on prayer and repentance," Mom said. "It's a way to remind ourselves that connecting with God is more important than anything else."

Mary added, "So it's like setting aside distractions to think about God?"

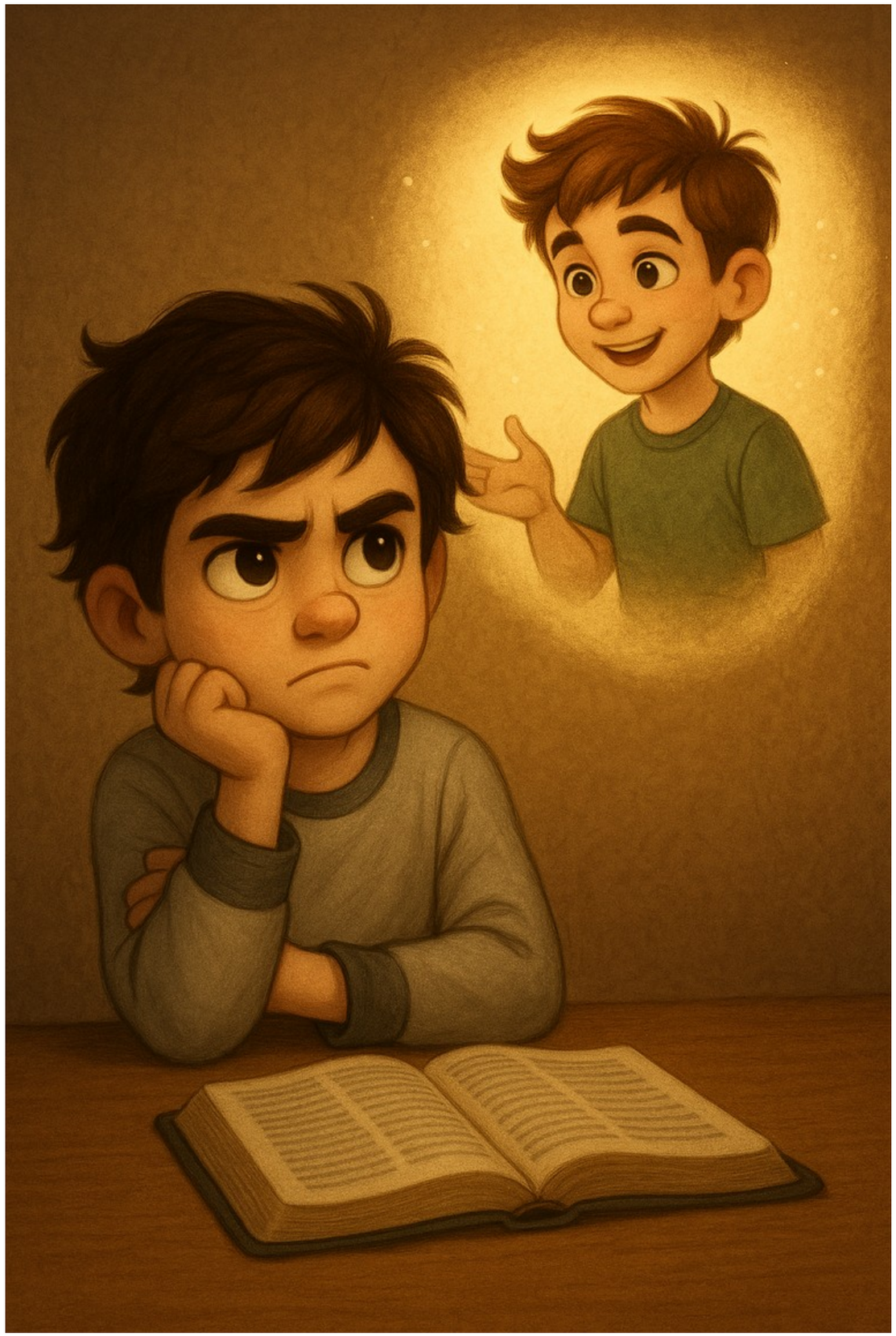
"Exactly," Dad said with a smile.

"Another important part of Yom Kippur is asking others for forgiveness," Mom said. "If we've hurt someone, it's important to say sorry and try to make it right."

Mike looked down. "I yelled at my friend last week. Should I apologize?"

"Yes," Mom said gently. "It's never too late to say sorry."

"And God is always ready to forgive us when we ask Him with a sincere heart," Dad added.



The Meaning of Sukkot

It was a bright autumn morning, and the Abrams family was busy building their sukkah in the backyard.

"What's the sukkah for?" Mary asked, holding a bundle of leafy branches.

"The sukkah reminds us of the shelters the Israelites lived in when God brought them out of Egypt," Dad explained. "It's also a place to celebrate God's provision and blessings."

"Can we decorate it?" Mike asked excitedly.

"Of course!" Mom said. "Let's hang these fruits and make it beautiful."

Mary and Mike helped hang colorful paper chains, fruits, and drawings on the sukkah walls.

"Sukkot is called the season of our joy," Dad explained. "It's a time to celebrate God's blessings with happiness."

"Like a big party?" Mike asked, grinning.

"Exactly," Dad said. "God wants us to be joyful and share that joy with others."

"Why do we invite guests into the sukkah?" Mary asked as they arranged chairs inside.

"Sukkot is about sharing and welcoming others," Mom said. "It's called hospitality, and it makes God happy when we include others."

"Can we invite our neighbors?" Mike asked.

"That's a wonderful idea," Mom said with a smile.

That evening, as they sat under the stars in the sukkah, Dad said, "Sukkot reminds us to trust in God and to be thankful for His blessings."

"I'm thankful for this beautiful sukkah," Mary said.

"And for all the fun we had!" Mike added.

The True Meaning of Christmas

It was a chilly December evening, and the Abrams family had just finished dinner. The twins, Mary and Mike, were bursting with excitement. Christmas was just a few days away!

“Mom, Dad, can we decorate the tree now?” Mike asked, his dark eyes sparkling.

“Please?” Mary added, her voice softer but equally eager.

Their father smiled and nodded. “Of course! Let’s bring out the ornaments. But while we do, let’s talk about what Christmas really means.”

Mom placed a large box of ornaments on the table.

“Christmas is about much more than just presents and decorations,” she said as she opened the box.

“Mike held up a shiny star ornament. “Isn’t it about Jesus being born?” he asked.

“That’s right,” Dad replied, hanging a golden bell on the tree. “Christmas celebrates the birth of Yeshua—Jesus—God’s greatest gift to the world.”

Mary tilted her head thoughtfully. “But why did God send Jesus?”

Mom knelt down beside her. “God sent Jesus because He loves us so much. Jesus came to show us how to love God and each other.”

Mike picked up a tiny manger ornament. “So, Jesus was born in a place like this?”

“Yes,” Dad said. “Jesus was born in a stable, where animals stayed, because there was no room for Him anywhere else. It shows us how humble He was.”

“Christmas isn’t just about getting presents,” Mary said. “It’s about remembering Jesus and sharing His love.”

The Meaning of Purim

The Abrams family was busy getting ready for Purim. Mary and Mike were excitedly helping their mom bake hamantaschen in the kitchen.

"Why do we bake these triangle cookies?" Mike asked, sneaking a piece of dough.

"They remind us of Haman’s hat," Mom said. "Haman tried to harm the Jewish people, but God protected them through Queen Esther."

Later, the family sat together to read the story of Esther.

"Esther was brave," Dad said. "She risked her life to save her people by speaking up to the king."

"And Mordecai helped her," Mary added. "He told her about Haman’s plan."

"Can we dress up like Queen Esther and Mordecai for Purim?" Mary asked.

"That's a great idea!" Mom said. "Costumes remind us of how things were hidden and then revealed, just like God's plan in the story."

The next day, Mary and Mike delivered mishloach manot to their neighbors.

"Happy Purim!" they said as they handed out the baskets.

"Thank you so much!" one neighbor replied. "This is such a kind tradition."

"That's why we give gifts and share joy on Purim!" Dad said. "It reminds us that God takes care of His people."

The Meaning of Easter and Passover

It was a bright spring morning, and the Abrams family was busy preparing for Passover and Easter. Mary and Mike had just finished helping their mother in the kitchen when Mike asked, "Dad, what exactly is Easter all about?"

"Easter is connected to Passover," Dad began. "Both holidays remind us of God's love and His plan to save us."

"How are they connected, Daddy?" Mary asked thoughtfully.

"Passover remembers when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt," Dad explained. "The lamb's blood on their doorposts protected them. Easter celebrates when Yeshua—Jesus—became the Lamb of God. His death and resurrection save us from sin."

Mike's eyes widened. "So Jesus gave His life for us?"

"That’s right," Mom said. "He loved us so much that He was willing to take the punishment for our sins so we could be close to God. And because He rose from the dead, we know that death isn’t the end."

"That’s why Easter is so joyful—because Jesus is alive!" Mary said, smiling brightly.

"How can we celebrate Easter in a way that shows God’s love?" Mike asked.

"By being kind and generous to others, just as God has been to us," Mom said. "We could bake some treats for our neighbors or visit someone who might feel lonely."

"I want to make cards for the people at church!" Mike said eagerly.

The Meaning of Shavuot

The Abrams family was getting ready for Shavuot. Mary and Mike helped their mom make cheesecake in the kitchen.

"Why do we eat dairy on Shavuot?" Mike asked, licking some batter off a spoon.

"Eating dairy reminds us of the sweetness of the Torah, just like milk and honey," Mom explained.

Later, the family gathered in the living room as Dad opened a book.

"Shavuot celebrates when God gave the Torah to the Israelites at Mount Sinai," he explained.

"That must have been amazing!" Mary said.

"Why are we putting flowers everywhere?" Mary asked as they decorated the house.

"Shavuot is also called the Festival of Harvest," Mom said. "It's a time to thank God for the beauty of creation and His provision and blessings."

Later that evening, the Abrams family joined their synagogue's celebration. The Torah was decorated with flowers, and everyone sang songs of praise.

"This feels so special," Mary whispered to Mike.

Trusting God’s Plan

One evening, as the family sat outside watching the stars, Mary asked, "Why doesn’t life always go the way we want?"

"That’s a great question," Dad said. "Sometimes, things happen that we don’t understand, but we can always trust that God has a good plan."

"That reminds me of Joseph," Mom said. "Even when he was sold by his brothers and sent to Egypt, God was still with him and had a bigger plan."

"So even when things seem bad, God is still in control?" Mike asked.

"Exactly," Dad said. "God sees the whole picture, even when we can’t."

"Sometimes trusting God means waiting for His timing," Mom said.

"Like when we planted our garden and had to wait for the seeds to grow?" Mary asked.

"Yes!" Dad said. "God's plan unfolds in His perfect time, just like seeds take time to grow."

"That reminds me of Abraham and Sarah," Mike said. "God promised them a son, but they had to wait a long time."

"And God kept His promise!" Mom said. "When we trust Him, we can wait patiently, knowing He is working for our good."

"Trusting God means believing in Him every day," Dad said.

"Even when we don't know what's ahead?" Mike asked.

"Yes!" Mom said. "Just like how the Israelites followed God in the wilderness, even though they didn't know where He was leading them."

"That means we can trust Him in big and small things!" Mary said. "Like praying before making decisions."

"Exactly," Dad said. "Proverbs 3:5-6 says, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.'"

"I want to follow God's path every day!" Mike said with a big smile.

Why God Allows Suffering

"Why does God allow suffering?" Mary asked during their evening devotion.

"That's a big question," Dad said. "Even when we don't understand everything, we can trust that God has a good purpose."

"God is always with us, even in hard times," Mom added.

"Suffering reminds us how much we need God," Dad said. "When things are hard, we can turn to Him for strength and comfort."

"It also helps us understand and care for others," Mom added. "If we've been through something difficult, we can help someone else going through the same thing."

"Like when I comforted my friend after she had a bad day?" Mary asked.

"Exactly!" Dad said. "God can use even our hardest moments for good."

"Even when suffering is hard, God promises to be with us," Dad said. "He gives us peace and hope."

"And He promises that one day, everything will be made right," Mom added. "We have the hope of a new world where there will be no more pain or sadness."

"That makes me feel safe," Mary said softly.

"And when we trust God even in suffering, it shows others how great He is," Dad said. "We can live for Him no matter what."

That night, as Dad tucked Mary and Mike into bed, he said, "Goodnight, my little lights. Let's trust God's plan, even when we don't understand it."

"Goodnight, Daddy," Mary whispered.

"Goodnight," Mike said, dreaming of God's love and promises.